

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05392 100436Z
ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T BOGOTA 5392

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SECSTATE PASS AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE;
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

BRASILIA FOR AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS ONLY

NSC FOR BRZEZINSKI, THORTNTON AND TUCHMAN ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP(CARTER, ROASLYNN), PGOV
SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION: PRESIDENT GEISEL, BRAZIL

1. MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS MET WITH PRESIDENT GEISEL AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, BRASILIA, ON JUNE 7, 1977. PRESIDENT GEISEL APOLOGIZED FOR THE FACT THAT HE HAD TO CONCLUDE HIS DISCUSSION WITH MRS. CARTER PROMPTLY AT 11:30 A.M. BECAUSE OF HIS SISTER-IN-LAW'S FUNERAL, BUT HE GRACIOUSLY SUGGESTED THAT THEY CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSION AT DINNER. FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WAS PREPARED BY ROBERT PASTOR, NSC, AS DICTATED TO HIM BY MRS. CARTER. (MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION ON MORNING TALKS BEING SENT SEPTEL).

2. PRESIDENT GEISEL SAID THAT HE OFTEN HAD DIFFICULTY SLEEPING AT NIGHT KNOWING THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FUTURE OF HIS ENTIRE COUNTRY, AND HE COULD UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WITH THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE
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WORLD ON HIS SHOULDERS, FELT AN EVEN GREATER BURDEN. MRS. CARTER THEN RESONDED BY SAYING THAT GEISEL COULD WELL UNFERSTAND PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSITION ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE. FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN, SHE SAID, IT WAS NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE REPORCECESSING FACILITIES. GEISEL SAID THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND OUR CONCERN, BUT BRAZIL IS A PEACE-LOVING NATION

AND BESIDES, IT CANNOT DO WITHOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY. MRS. CARTER AGREED THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL WAS A PEACE-LOVING PERSON, AND THAT THE NATION ALSO DID NOT HAVE AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS, BUT SOMEONE COULD COME ALONG LATER AND USE THE CAPABILITY TO DEVELOP WEAPONS. "I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T DO IT, BUT WHO IS TO SAY THAT YOUR SUCCESSOR WOULDN'T". GEISEL ADMITTED THAT THE HISTORY OF GERMANY PROVIDED A LESSON AND CONCEDED HER POINT. SHE THEN SAID THAT ADMIRAL RICKOVER FELT REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO USE THORIUM AS AN ALTERNATIVE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY. GEISEL SMILED AND SAID THAT BRAZIL HAD GREAT QUANTITIES OF THORIUM. MRS. CARTER THEN SUGGESTED THAT BRAZIL WAS IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION TO DEMONSTRATE ITS SINCERITY AND COMMITMENT TO PEACE BY WAIVING THE CONDITIONS AND PUTTING THE TREATY OF TLAHELCO INTO EFFECT. AT THIS POINT, GEISEL WENT INTO A LONG DISCUSSION ABOUT THE EVIL DESIGNS OF RUSSIA AND OF THE COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY. HE SAID THAT POOR PEOPLE WERE PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO COMMUNISM AND HE WARNED MRS. CARTER THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE DECEIVED BY RUSSIA'S ALLEGED DESIRE TO RELAX TENSIONS. HE SAID THAT RUSSIA CAN'T BE TRUSTED; AND, EVENTHOUGH PRESIDENT CARTER TALKS ABOUT CUTTING BACK ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS, HE READ THAT WE HAD SET OFF NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNDER WATER. MRS. CARTER THEN SAID THAT SHE DID NOT KNOW OF ANY SUCH EXPLOSION AND SHE DIDN'T THINK IT HAD OCCURED. SHE UNDERLINED THE PRESIDENT'S DETERMINATION TO REDUCE NUCLEAR STOCKS ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS WITH THE RUSSIANS. GEISEL INDICATED HE DIDN'T AGREE WITH THE WORDING OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, BUT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK TO THE UNITED STATES

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ABOUT IT. MRS. CARTER MENTIONED THAT THE USG, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES, WAS PRESENTLY REVIEWING A POLICY IN WHICH ONLY COUNTRIES SIGN NPT WOULD GET PRIORITY ON ENRICHED URANIUM. SHE ALSO SAID THAT SHE HOPED BRAZIL WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE FULL FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM.

3. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, GEISEL SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT SIGN THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS BECAUSE HE FELT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY SINCE THERE WAS A UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLIED AN INTERVENTIONIST POLICY AND COULD PROMOTE POLICE STATES. HE APPEARED UNHAPPY THAT PARAGUAY MIGHT PERMIT THE COMMISSION ACCESS.

4. GEISEL TOLD HER THAT THE STATEMENT WHICH HE PRIZED MOST IN THE PRESIDENT'S PAN AMERICAN DAY SPEECH WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF RECOGNIZING THE INDIVIDUALITY OF EACH COUNTRY.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF LIBERALIZING THE GOVERNMENT, AMBASSADOR CAVALCANTI, DIRECTOR OF A COMBINED POLICY PLANNING ORGANIZATION, SAID THAT DEISEL IS A GOOD MAN WITH GOOD INTENTIONS, BUT THAT HE IS BEING PRESSURED BY THE RIGHT WING TO REVERSE DIRECTION ON HIS DECOMPRESSION CAMPAIGN. THE RATIONALE IS THAT IF YOU OPEN UP THE SYSTEM EVEN A LITTLE BIT, THEY WILL WANT MORE AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THE PEOPLE WILL EVEN WANT TO ELECT A PRESIDENT. THE PROCESS HAS TO BE GRADUAL. ELECTIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT ARE, IN EFFECT, MADE BY ELEVEN PEOPLE CHOSEN BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE DECISION ON A NEW PRESIDENT WILL BE MADE NEXT YEAR. CAVALCANTI SUGGESTED THAT ONE POSSIBLE CANDIDATE WOULD BE FIGUERO. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT IF MRS. CARTER WERE NOT HERE THE CHANCES WERE GOOD THAT SEVERAL LEGISLATORS WOULD HAVE BEEN "CASSATED." CAVALCANTI ALSO MENTIONED THAT DEMOCRACY WAS HARDLY THE NORM IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

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INDEED THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT FOUR DEMOCRACIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND ABOUT TWO IN AFRICA.

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Message Attributes

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